

## Letter from Mary Costello to Mabel Hubbard Bell, April 8, 1892, with transcript

Enclosure from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 16 Viale Principe Amedeo, April 8, 1892. Dear Mrs. Bell:

I cannot say that the doctor has been explicit with me in regard to Mrs. Burton's case, but he said he felt much less hopeful than at first. All winter he has been fighting against the increase of the tubercular trouble, but in spite of his efforts it has advanced. He cannot at all say how it will end. She may be able to throw it off, but I fear that he thinks the chances are not favorable, owing to the nervous complications. She is growing steadily weaker, but he seems to regard it as a good symptom that she has not lost flesh. He asked me, or rather acquiesced when I suggested it, to write to her husband and tell him she was weaker. He says she probably cannot leave Italy this summer. It is now a fully declared case of consumption, and while the cure is possible it is by no means certain.

It is good of you to ask what you can do. I know the flowers you have been sending have been a great pleasure. Perhaps if when you go away you would leave word at the florist's to send flowers every now and then for a month, it would be the most welcome thing you could do. She is not able to read much, but she thoroughly enjoys looking at the flowers.

Her children, and the various complications that arise with them, make her very nervous, so as soon as Miss Bliss is gone, I am going to take them with me to Viareggio and keep them there till Mr. Hitz comes. She really needs some one with her now, to shield her from every care.

I felt so sorry to hear of your daughter's illness. I trust all will go well with you in Paris.

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Yours sincerely, Mary Costello.